



**"The maintenance of the
maritime well-being of the
nation"**

is
the
principal
objective
of
the
Navy League
of Australia

Patron:

Governor of Victoria

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LCDR Roger Blythman
RANR RFD RET'D

Snr Vice President: Frank
McCarthy

Vice President Secretary: Ray
Gill

PP: Treasurer: Special Events:
CMDR John Wilkins OAM RFD
RANR

THE NAVY LEAGUE'S "SWORD & CUTLASS" BACK ON SHOW

For many years the Navy League's Ceremonial "Sword & Cutlass" set was displayed in a glass case at Melbourne's "Naval & Military Club". It held pride of place in the VADM John Collins Room until the Clubs closure in 2009. The "Sword & Cutlass" set were then transferred to the Box Hill RSL Club.

A period in storage followed during restoration of the Club, however, in mid-July of this year with the Clubs President Mr Tony Bowden in attendance together with Memorabilia Officer Mr. Brian Tateson and Navy League Executive Members, these valuable pieces of Ceremonial Armament were once more paced on display in a most ornate and prominent position at the Box Hill RSL Club for all to view.

The Navy Leagues CMDR John Wilkin OAM,RFD,RANR takes up the story of the "Sword & Cutlass" and provides us with more details plus their history in the following:-

Navy League of Australia Sword and Cutlass 1992-2015

In 1992 a Sword and a Cutlass were purchased by The Victoria Division of the Navy League from Wilkinson Sword in the UK. These were planned to become annual awards to Port Melbourne Naval Reserve Division personnel training at HMAS *Lonsdale*.

The sword was intended to be awarded by the Commanding Officer RANR to the most highly commended RANR officer for his or her service in the previous year and to be worn at every weekly parade for the next year.

Navy League of Australia Sword and Cutlass 1992-2015 C'tnd

The Cutlass was to be awarded to the most outstanding CPO, PO, Leading of Ordinary rate for his or her outstanding service in the previous year and to be worn at every weekly parade for the next year. The awards could be re-applied to an existing awardee or passed to another selected person. Unfortunately in December 1993 HMAs Lonsdale was decommissioned and eventually the establishment sold and our intention to make this presentation was no longer possible. All RANR Training Stone Frigates in all states were sold.

The Navy League of Australia in Victoria were now possessors of a Sword and Cutlass. The Navy League awaited for signs as to what the RAN was planning for future RANR training. After six years it was clear RANR training was not to be restored in a way that would permit the NLA Victoria Division's original intent to be carried out.

In 1997 it was resolved to present the Sword and Cutlass on loan to the Naval & Military Club, Melbourne, for the Admiral John Collins.



CDRE Dacre H. D. Smyth AO RAN

CDRE I.K. Purvis OBE RAN

Unveiled the Navy League's loan of a Naval Sword and Cutlass for the Admiral John Collins Room at the Naval and Military Club – Thursday 19 February 1997 at 1800.

Navy League of Australia Sword and Cutlass 1992-2015 C‘nd



Newly displayed "Sword & Cutlass at Box Hill RSL 2015

Navy League of Australia Sword and Cutlass 1992-2015 C‘nd



L-R:

Frank McCarthy Senior V. President -John Wilkins PP

NAVAL HISTORY

Listed in the following are some of the memorable events in naval history that have transpired during the month of August:-

AUGUST 1900

It was in August 1900 that her Majesty's South Australian Cruiser "Protector" sailed for China to engage in the Boxer Rebellion.

AUGUST 1908

The United States Great White Fleet visited Australia during their World cruise, arriving in Melbourne on the 29th of the month.

AUGUST 1914

At the outbreak of World War One the Defence Minister, Senator Millen, announced in Melbourne on Sunday 9th August 1914 that approval had been given for a Military force being formed to be designated as the "Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force". The force was raised in record time and on 19th August 1914, it sailed from Sydney Harbour for active service in German New Guinea.

The Navy League member the late CMDR. Stan Veale, CMG**, RANR was a member of the force in which he served as a midshipman. CMDR Veale claimed to have been one of the first 200 Australians to go into action in World War One.

AUGUST 1941

HMAS CASTLEMAINE, the last of the 60 Australian built Bathurst Class minesweeper – Corvettes still afloat, was launched by Dame Pattie Menzies at Williamstown Victoria on 7th August 1941.

"Castlemaine" has therefore been afloat for 74 years and is moored not far from her original launching place, after having steamed some 117,000 miles during WW2 service.

NAVAL HISTORY C'TND

I have no doubt that the reason Ex HMAS CASTLEMAINE is still afloat today, is due in no small way to the sterling efforts of Peter Williams and his loyal small band of volunteer helpers.

HMAS BATHURST the lead ship of the class and the first of 60 built in Australia was launched on the first of August 1940 at Cockatoo Island Sydney.

AUGUST 1942

HMAS ARUNTA, under the command of CMDR J.C. Morrow RAN, sank the Japanese submarine R033 off Port Moresby.

AUGUST 1942

It was the 9th August 1942 that HMAS CANBERRA was lost during the battle of Savo Island, the result of a surprise Japanese attack.

Eighty three of "Canberra's" complement were lost during the action including her Commanding Officer Captain F.E. Getting.

The United States Navy also suffered heavy losses of men and ships in this action including the cruisers "Quincy" "Astoria" and "Vincennes" with the loss of 939 lives.

AUGUST 1943

On the night of 1st August 1943, a Japanese destroyer group of the "Tokyo Express" successfully ran supplies through to Villa in the Pacific despite attempts by United States PT. Boats to frustrate the effort. As the enemy ships retired on the fulfillment of their mission, the Japanese Destroyer "Amagiri" rammed and sank PT109 commanded by Lieutenant Kennedy, USNR. Kennedy and the surviving 10 members of his crew – two were lost – reached the shore of a small island east of Gizo. From there LEUT Kennedy sent a message, scratched on a coconut shell, by friendly natives to Wana Wana Island, where Coastwatcher LEUT Evans organized the rescue of LEUT Kennedy who eventually arrived hidden under ferns in the bottom of a native canoe. Arrangements were then made for the rescue of the remainder of PT109'S crew from their island hiding place by another P.T. Boat.

And so it was that a future President of the United States of America John F. Kennedy was saved by an Australian Coastwatcher, LEUT Reg Evans RANVR.

AUGUST 1945

The Japanese Government surrendered unconditionally, thus ending World War Two.

Admiral William F. "Bull" Halsey of the U.S. Third Fleet, plus units of the British Pacific Fleet formed part of various task forces in Japanese waters at that time including British and American Task Force 37 and Task Force 38 under the commands of Admiral Sir Bernard Rawlings and US Vice Admiral John S. McCain.

United States leaders initially considered that the landing and occupation force planned for Japan was to be essentially American however, the British Pacific Fleet provided a landing force for Yokosuka and the Royal Navy landing battalion was placed under the command of the RAN'S Captain H.J. Buchanan of the Seventh Flotilla in HMAS NAPIER, which was a fine tribute to this distinguished Australian Officer.

The Japanese seaport of Yokosuka remains to this day a strategic naval base with units of the US. Navy forward deployed and home based at Yokosuka. These ships include the aircraft carrier 'USS GEORGE WASHINGTON', cruisers, the command ship "USS BLUE RIDGE" and the Arleigh Burke Class Destroyers of destroyer squadron 15.

*****Notice is hereby given that the*****

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of
THE NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA – VICTORIA DIVISION
Will be held at the Box Hill RSL, Nelson Road Box Hill Victoria
On Thursday 17th September 2015 at 7: 00PM

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With the kind permission of CMDR John Wilkins OAM, RFD, RANR, RET'D we include a further extract from his latest publication "Australian Naval Honours and Awards 1939-2015.+"



The Navy is traditionally referred to as the **Senior Service** and this is founded in the historic preamble to the UK Articles of War: - a recognition of the reality that the wealth and security of the island nation depends on its Naval Seapower to protect its maritime trade routes, as does Australia -

"The Navy whereon, under the good Providence of God, the wealth, safety, and strength of the Kingdom chiefly depend".

The Australian Commonwealth Navy, renamed Royal Australian Navy (RAN) in 1911, was nurtured and developed under the watchful eye of the Royal Navy (RN) up until 1947. At this time RADM John Collins RAN took over as Chief of the Naval Staff and 1st Naval member of the Australian Commonwealth Naval Board, the last step in the command independence of the RAN. Twenty years later we handed back the Royal Navy White Ensign, with our grateful thanks for being granted the privilege of jointly flying this ensign since 1911, as a loyal Dominion of the British Commonwealth.

We hoisted our own White Ensign on 1st March 1967, it being noted that March 1st. 1901 is the Royal Australian Navy's Foundation Day.

Australia, an island nation like the United Kingdom, has added 100 years of its own Naval traditions to those handed down by the Royal Navy. The RAN maintains these traditions and it is noted that in accordance with our Government's Constitutional Orders-in-Council, our Navy was twice transferred to the command of the Royal Navy with whom we fought side by side in World Wars I & II against common enemies. The Royal Australian Navy's men and women of today continue to bravely and loyally serve our country, protect it and play a crucial part in maintaining peace in the world.

Naval traditions inherited from centuries past are still important today for many British and Australian sailors sacrificed their lives to create these traditions as they fought to defend the rights of both our nations and its citizens to live in peace and harmony. The RAN has been, and still is, the guardian of these traditions formed from service, sacrifice and heroism.

A study of the past reveals that the success of Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 was a turning point in history. It established for Britain and its colonies a unique gift of time - time for a century of reasonably peaceful development to occur. In the Australian colony settlers came and spread throughout this unexplored continent, forming other colonies and finally blossoming into the Commonwealth of Australia with its own Naval and Military forces.

The historic naval connection with our past is recognised in our Federal Parliament where the design of the original House of Representatives Speaker's Chair is based on the design of the House of Commons Speaker's chair. Our Speaker's chair, a gift from the British Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, has hinged flaps on the arm rests using oak timber from HMS Victory, and the Royal Arms are carved in 500 year old oak from Westminster Hall. This very historic piece of furniture firmly links us to the many traditions and memories of past sacrifices, struggles and hard work which collectively were responsible for developing a free democratic system of government that we all so enjoy and will defend.

The RAN's proud traditions of service and sacrifice over the last hundred years has maintained Nelson's and the Royal Navy's example of service for it is also the "Senior Service", an historic position which the RAN has inherited and maintains - *Lest We Forget*.

CMDR John M Wilkins OAM RFD* RANR



VICTORIA -TASMANIA DIVISION
Tasmania Established 1900, Victoria 15 October 1915

2015-2016 ANNUAL DUES

Please forward annual payment off **\$35** to Hon Secretary R Gill JP by **30 June** and that will assist our honorary officers responsible for the administration. Payment can be made direct by internet banking into our account.

Direct payment - by internet banking into our account , but please ensure your name is included

BSB 033 389 A/C No.: 107631 Westpac Bank

or POST to

P.O. Box 2340 Mount Waverley 3149

We hope you are enjoying Navy League's Quarterly journal "The Navy"

We hold occasional "Welcome luncheons" for visiting ships and "special events depending on ship arrivals so please let Secretary Ray know you are interested in being notified of these events and we will update our records.

Ring the Secretary **9884 6237** if you and/or a friend would like to attend events or need advice.

Cadets' best in country

Thursday, May 07, 2015

NAVAL Cadets based at Bulimba Barracks have broken a 44 year drought to claim the most prestigious title on offer. TS Gayundah was named the most efficient in the country by Navy League Australia for 2014 after completing a year of challenges. The cadets were presented with the shield at a ceremony at Balmoral High School at the weekend. Lieutenant ANC Commanding Officer Wendy Broxham said the title was a reward for the TS Gayundah's 60 naval cadets hard work.

"It's been a long time between drinks for the unit. We are the oldest unit in Queensland. It's a huge honour to win and put our name out there" she said

"We are absolutely thrilled. It's very prestigious to win the award and a lot of hard work goes into it"

Among the tasks the unit was required to perform was a ship-to-ship transfer of injured patient and cooks making meals for some of the unit's guests. Cadets' families and friends, along with invited dignitaries, celebrated the unit's success. The ceremony included demonstrations by the cadets, including a performance by the band and a march.

Many of the TS Gayundah's cadets have graduated to careers in the Australian Navy.



Navy cadets Ben Davey and Lucy O'Malley, from TS Gayundah

Picture: Richard Walke

PAYMENTS RECEIVED WITHOUT ANY IDENTIFICATION DETAILS SEE FOLLOWING:-

****** A payment has been made on the 23 June as an INTERNET PAYMENT but with No Name as is required for the Treasurer to mark Paid against – Ref No. 725854**

Also

A Bank Cheque drawn on the CBA at 357 Collins Street was sent to Sydney - with No Name attached, Cheque reference is 391702 dated 16 July 2015-07-27

Would either of the Bearer's please contact Hon Secretary on 03 98846237 or email details to raydotgill@optusnet.com.au **ASAP**

“AS IT WAS”

Once again we invite you to join us as we take a look at more recent naval history at items that involved or caught the eye of Navy League over the years on our “Keep Watch” brief. This time we go back 10 years as we browse through our records and reports to August 2005. We note that it was around this time we reported on the following:-

HMAS BRISBANE SCUTTLED

The last of the RAN'S American built Charles F. Adams Class Guided Missile Destroyers the former HMAS BRISBANE DDG41 was sunk as a dive site on 31st July 2005 off the Queensland coast.

HMAS BRISBANE joins her two sister ships HMAS PERTH DDG38 a dive site off Western Australia and HMAS HOBART DDG39 a dive site off South Australia.

With a series of 3 implosions HMAS BRISBANE settled at its final resting place 25 nautical miles east of Mudjimba Island off Queensland's Sunshine Coast.

All three Destroyers served with distinction on the gun line during the Vietnam War.

RESCUE OF THE RUSSIAN SUBMARINE PRIZ

The rescue of a Russian Mini-Submarine trapped at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean succeeded with just 12 hours of air supply remaining for the crew of the 7 trapped submariners on 7th August 2005.

Unlike the KURSK tragedy 5 years ago, Russian authorities this time did not hesitate to call for foreign assistance in saving the mini-submarine PRIZ AS28 caught in coastal defence antenna cables 190 metres under the Pacific Ocean.

The call for help was immediately answered by Britain, Japan and the United States, however, it was Britain's Royal Navy which sent a submersible robot called “Scorpio” from Scotland to cut through the cables that trapped the PRIZ, thus freeing the mini-sub and her crew of 7 Russian submariners.

NEWS IN BRIEF

HMAS ANZAC-NORTHERN TRIDENT 2015

During her current overseas deployment HMAS ANZAC FFH150 paid a visit to Casablanca in Morocco, indeed a rare visit occasion. Other visits on Anzac's current deployment have included Turkey, Italy, Malta, Greece, UK, France Spain and South Africa. HMAS ANZAC is currently under the command of CMDR Belinda Wood.

HMAS PERTH IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

During a recent South East Asia deployment, HMAS PERTH FFH157, made a port visit to Sattahip, Thailand. Whilst berthed in this port PERTH was visited by three chefs from the Marriott Hotel Pattaya. During their visit to the ship, the three chefs prepared a traditional Thai luncheon for the entire ships company. The Thai cuisine consisted of “Thai Green Curry”, “Seafood Tom Yum Goong” and “Spicy Pork and Dried Chilli” all of which was very well received by the ships company. This exercise was organised and arranged by Peter Thorand, President of The Navy League – Siam, local branch.

NEWS IN BRIEF C'TND

The next exercise for PERTH was “Talisman Sabre” held off the Australian Coast, before PERTH returned to her base at HMAS STIRLING W.A.

HMAS PERTH is currently under the command of Captain Ivan Ingham, AM.

HMAS NEWCASTLE'S DRUG HAUL

The RAN'S Chief of Joint Operations, Vice Admiral David Johnston announced recently that the Adelaide Class Frigate HMAS NEWCASTLE FFG06, had seized 149 kg of heroin from a drug smuggling boat off the coast of Africa.

This is the sixth time, over a recent eight week period that HMAS NEWCASTLE has been successful in a high sea's drug seizure. This now takes the RAN'S total to \$2 billion worth of drugs seized and destroyed in two years.

Vice Admiral Johnston said, the drug seizures would have a huge impact on the funding of terrorist activities, which is where most of the drug profits are directed.

NUSHIP ADELAIDE

Once again Kevin Dunn of Fleetline has provided us with a fine image of NUSHIP ADELAIDE. On this occasion the ship is returning to the builder's yard at BAE in Williamstown during mid July 2015 following her first sea trials.



NUSHIP ADELAIDE

Membership

Any person with an interest in maritime affairs, or who wishes to acquire an interest in, or knowledge of, maritime affairs and who wishes to support the objectives of the League, is invited to join.

OBJECTIVES

The principal objective of the Navy League of Australia is "The maintenance of the maritime well-being of the Nation" by:

- Keeping before the Australian people the fact that we are a maritime nation and that a strong Navy supported by maritime elements of the Air Force and Army and other Government Maritime agencies are indispensable elements of our national well-being and vital to the freedom of Australia.
- Promoting defence self-reliance by supporting maritime research, defence industry, Australian shipping, ship-building, port and transport infrastructure and off shore resource exploration and development.
- Promoting and encouraging the interest and training of youth in the sea.

ACTIVITIES

The Navy League of Australia works towards its objectives in a number of ways:

- By including in its membership leading representatives of the many elements which form the maritime community.
- Through soundly-based contributions by members to journals and newspapers, and other media comment.
- By publishing *The Navy*, a quarterly journal reporting on local and overseas maritime happenings, past, present, and projected.
- By organizing symposia, ship visits and various other functions of maritime interests throughout the years.
- By supporting Australian Navy Cadets, and assisting in the provision of training facilities.

Member participation is encouraged in all these activities.

POLICY

The policy of the League can be found at the back of *The Navy*.


Joining the League

To become a Member of The League, you do not need to have had any previous maritime experience. You merely need an interest in maritime affairs. Simply complete the Application Form below, and post it, together with your first annual subscription of \$35.00 (which includes the four quarterly editions of The Navy), to the Hon Secretary of the Division of the Navy League in the State in which you reside, the address of which are as follows:

New South Wales Division: GPO Box 1719, Sydney, NSW 2001.
Victorian Division: PO Box 2340, Mt Waverley, Vic 3149.
Queensland Division: GPO Box 1481, Brisbane, QLD 4001.
South Australian Division: PO Box 3008, Unley, SA 5061.
West Australian Division: 3 Prosser Way, Myaree, WA 6154.

If you live in Tasmania, please post the form to the Hon Secretary of the Victorian Division. If you live in the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory, please post the form to the Hon Secretary of the New South Wales or South Australian Division respectively.

Subscriptions are due on 1 July in each year, and your membership will be current to 30 June immediately following the date on which you join the League, except that if your first subscription is received during the period 1 April to 30 June in any year, your initial membership will be extended to 30 June in the following year.

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|---|--------------|---|
| THE NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA | |  |
| APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP | | |
| To: The Hon. Secretary The Navy League of Australia | | |
| Division _____ | | |
| I wish to join the Navy League of Australia, the objectives of which I support, and I enclose a remittance for \$35.00 (including \$3.18 GST) being my first annual subscription to 30 June next. | | |
| Name: [Mr] [Mrs] [Ms] [Rank] _____ | | |
| PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY | | |
| Street _____ | | |
| Suburb _____ | State _____ | P/code _____ |
| Phone _____ | Mobile _____ | |
| Email _____ | | |
| Signature _____ | | Date _____ |
| <i>Subscriptions are due on 1 July in each year and your membership will be current to 30 June immediately following the date on which you join the League, except that if your first subscription is received during the period 1 April to 30 June in any year, your initial membership will be extended to 30 June in the following year.</i> | | |